



**Okanagan Basin**  
WATER BOARD

**BOARD REPORT: October 9, 2014**

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4  
P 250.469.6271 F 250.762.7011  
[www.obwb.ca](http://www.obwb.ca)

### **OBWB Directors**

**Doug Findlater - Chair,**  
Regional District of Central  
Okanagan

**Juliette Cunningham - Vice-  
Chair,** Regional District of  
North Okanagan

**Doug Dirk,** Regional District of  
North Okanagan

**Bob Fleming,** Regional District  
of North Okanagan

**Keith Fielding,** Regional  
District of Central Okanagan

**Patty Hanson,** Regional  
District of Central Okanagan

**Gary Litke,** Regional District of  
Okanagan-Similkameen

**Allan Patton,** Regional District  
of Okanagan-Similkameen

**Stu Wells,** Regional District of  
Okanagan-Similkameen

**James Pepper,** Okanagan  
Nation Alliance

**Toby Pike,** Water Supply  
Association of B.C.

**Don Dobson,** Okanagan Water  
Stewardship Council

**The next regular meeting of the  
OBWB is 10 a.m. November 4,  
2014 at Regional District of  
Central Okanagan in Kelowna.**

## **Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights**

**Okanagan approves renewal of Water Management Program:** Directors were given an update on the Water Management Program, noting all three regional district boards have approved its renewal for another four years. The program includes the Water Stewardship Council (technical advisory body to the board), the Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant Program, Water Science and Research, and Communications and Outreach. Activities include the Water Supply and Demand Project, groundwater monitoring, workshops and conferences, the grant program and various outreach projects (e.g. Okanagan WaterWise).

**Water Board's 2015-16 budget approved:** The Board approved the OBWB 2015-16 budget with no increase in spending. The overall requisition is \$3.4 million, or 5.9 cents/\$1,000 of assessment. OBWB programs include the Sewage Facilities Grant Program to help local governments upgrade old sewage systems, the Milfoil Control Program, the Water Management Program (outlined above), and the UBCO Water Research Chair endowment fund. This is the final payment toward the UBCO endowment. For more on the OBWB and its programs please visit [www.obwb.ca](http://www.obwb.ca).

**Milfoil rototilling underway:** Rototilling is underway in Osoyoos Lake with work to start in Okanagan and Wood Lakes on October 15. Rototilling (de-rooting) is the most effective way to control this invasive aquatic plant. Learn more – check out our videos at: [www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL11479BF5E31A0F82](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL11479BF5E31A0F82).

**Board updated on continued efforts to prevent invasive mussels:** The board was updated on a recent resolution presented by the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce (CoC) to the national CoC regarding zebra and quagga mussels, and adopted. The resolution included a call to the federal government to pass pending legislation to allow Canada Border Services Agents (CBSA) to stop and inspect incoming watercraft and provide support to provinces to combat the mussels. The Union of BC Municipalities also passed a resolution at its recent convention calling on the province to initiate and fund inspection stations. According to provincial staff, some initial training of CBSA officers has been held in anticipation of federal legislation, and they are exploring a perimeter defence strategy. The board will send a letter to the province acknowledging progress to date and encouraging efforts to continue.

**Water Stewardship Council sets key issues for coming year:** The Council has been discussing a work plan for the coming year and a focus on key issues, including groundwater, water pricing, and environmental flow (planning for water scarcity and flooding). The council meets monthly on a volunteer basis and is made up of representatives from various agencies with an interest in water, including First Nations, local and senior government, farmers, realtors, academics and more. For more, visit: [www.obwb.ca/about-the-council/](http://www.obwb.ca/about-the-council/)

**Okanagan water survey underway:** A survey is being conducted over the next few weeks in the valley to gauge awareness around water issues. This is an update to a similar survey done in 2009.

**For more information, please visit: [www.OBWB.ca](http://www.OBWB.ca)**